



10/074,658

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) A holding mechanism comprising:

a lever handle housing for housing a lever handle when said lever handle is in a closed position; and

a lever arm comprising said lever handle attached to the housing, an end of the lever arm opposite said lever handle extending through a hole in said housing;

wherein said lever handle housing comprises at least one deflectable wing extending at said hole in said housing; and

wherein said end of said lever arm comprises at least one protrusion disposed to interfere with said at least one wing such that said lever arm is maintained in an open or closed position by abutments of said at least one protrusion and said at least one wing unless sufficient force is applied to deflect said wing and allow said protrusion to pass by said wing.

13. (previously presented) The mechanism of claim 12, further comprising a lock having a moveable shank.

14. (previously presented) The mechanism of claim 12, wherein the end of said lever arm comprises two protrusions on opposite sides of said end of said lever arm; and wherein the housing further comprises two wings disposed on opposite sides of said end of said lever arm and adapted for releasing engagement with said protrusions.

15. (previously presented) The mechanism of claim 12, wherein said protrusion comprises a rounded surface to facilitate movement past said at least one wing element with the application of force to said lever arm.

16. (currently amended) The mechanism of ~~claim 12~~ claim 13, wherein said shank, when in a locked position, extends through a second hole in said housing.

17. (previously presented) The mechanism of claim 16, wherein said shank, when in a locked position, extends through both said second hole in said housing and a hole in said lever handle.

18. (previously presented) The mechanism of claim 12, wherein said lever arm further comprises a snap-fit protrusion on either side of said lever arm for snapping into corresponding holes in said housing, said snap-fit protrusions comprising an axis on which said lever arm turns.

19. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 12, further comprising a handle snap integrated with said housing for engagement with said lever arm when said lever handle ~~lever~~ is in ~~an open~~ a closed position.

20-38. (cancelled).

39. (previously presented) A method of selectively securing an access panel comprising:

providing a lever handle housing for housing a lever handle when said lever handle is in a closed position, said housing being disposed in said access panel and comprising at least one deflectable wing extending at a hole in said housing;

attaching a lever arm comprising said lever handle to the housing, an end of the lever arm opposite said lever handle extending through said hole in said housing and comprising at least one protrusion disposed to interfere with said at least one wing;

maintaining said lever arm in an open or closed position by abutments of said at least one protrusion and said at least one wing until sufficient force is applied to deflect said wing and allow said protrusion to pass by said wing.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the end of said lever arm comprises two protrusions on opposite sides of said end of said lever arm; and wherein the housing further comprises two wings disposed on opposite sides of said end of said lever arm and adapted for releasing engagement with said protrusions.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising rounding said protrusion to facilitate movement past said at least one wing ~~element~~ with the application of force to said lever arm.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising selectively locking said lever arm in place with a moveable shank.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said locking comprises moving said shank to extend through a second hole in said housing and a hole in said lever handle.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising snapping a snap-fit protrusion on either side of said lever arm into corresponding holes in said housing, said snap-fit protrusions comprising an axis on which said lever arm turns.

45. (currently amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising engaging said lever handle lever in ~~an open~~ a closed position with a handle snap integrated with said housing.

46-58. (cancelled)